

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI PRESS REVIEW

SUMMARY: MAJOR STORIES COVERED BY SAUDI PRESS PAST WEEK
(APRIL 21-27) INCLUDED: LEBANON, MOROCCO'S P.M.'S VISIT
TO KINGDOM, DAKAR'S AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE, JORDAN'S CROWN
PRINCE HASAN'S VISIT, KISSINGER'S AFRICAN TOUR AND
SENATE REPORT ON CIA ACTIVITIES. COMMENTARIES INVOLVED
DR. KISSINGER'S TOUR (SEPARATE REPORT TELEGRAPHED DAILY),
LEBANON'S DEVELOPMENTS, HAWK MISSILES DEAL FOR JORDAN,
AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE AND MOROCCAN P. M.'S VISIT. OTHER
INTERESTING REPORTING INCLUDED: (A) A CHAT WITH VISITING
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, (B) A FEATURE ON U.S. SOCIETY,
(C) NEW REGULATIONS TO GOVERN SAUDI MEDIA, (D) SAUDI
COLOR TV IN THE OFFING, (E) FRANJIEH TO TAKE ASYLUM IN
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EGYPT, AND (F) A SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN-SAUDI-PALESTINIAN

PARLEY IN RIYADH. END SUMMARY.

LEBANON

KARIIM AL-RIYAD 4/21 ASKED IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE PEACE IN LEBANON WHEN ALL PARTIES ARE ARMED UP TO THEIR TEETH. "IF DISARMING OF VARIOUS PARTIES IS MAIN CONDITION FOR PEACE," HE ASKED, WHO IS GOING TO TRUST WHOM, AND WHO WOULD SURRENDER WEAPONS TO WHOM?

AL-RIYAD 4/25 SAID PARTITION OF LEBANON HAD BECOME A REALITY: FACTIONS FIGHTING EACH OTHER ARE DOING SO AS IF THEY WERE SMALL STATES AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

HAWK DEAL TO JORDAN

IN A RADIO (4/25) NEWS PROGRAM, COMMENTATOR REFERRED TO CONJECTURES SURROUNDING HAWK MISSILE DEAL WITH JORDAN. HE EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT OVER U.S. INABILITY TO DRAW LESSON FROM HER 20-YEAR-OLD MISTAKE WHEN SHE BANNED ARMS SALES TO EGYPT, THUS PUSHING CAIRO TOWARDS SOVIET UNION.

AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE

AL- RIYADH(4/21) SAID ARAB COUNTRIES PROVED THEIR ECONOMIC STRENGTH AFTER OCTOBER 1973 WAR. AFRICAN STATES ON OTHER HAND ALSO REALIZED THEIR STRENGTH AT U.N. WITH THEIR ONE-THIRD MEMBERSHIP. "COOPERATION BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD THUS LEAD TO MANY GAINS, ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO AFRICANS."

UKAZ (4/21) SAID POLICY OF KINGDOM HAS BEEN....."TO SUPPORT ARAB-AFRICAN STRUGGLE WITH ALL ITS MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC MEANS OUT OF AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF ARAB-AFRICAN COHESION."

MOROCCAN PM'S VISIT:

4/21 AL-BILAD SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT IS "TO ASK KINGDOM'S MEDIATION AND GOOD OFFICES TO PUT AN END TO BLOODSHED IN THE ARAB MAGHREB BECAUSE OF A PIECE OF LAND."

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

A) UNDER "A DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNOR OF CAROLINA," MUHAMMAD HUSAYN ZAYDAN REFERRED IN 4/26 AL-BILAD TO A CHAT HE HAD WITH VISITING SOUTH CAROLINA'S GOVERNOR JOHN WEST AT EMBASSY PARTY 4/24. WRITER SAID HE VISITED U.S. TWICE, ADMIRES FONDNESS OF AMERICANS FOR DEBATE AND THEIR PRIDE IN PERSONAL FREEDOM. ON THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIS HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION WITH MR. WEST. THE GOVERNOR'S CONTENTION THAT U.S. HAD FOR LONG BEEN IGNORANT OF ARAB WORLD, WRITER SAID "NO, AMERICA HAD, RATHER, BEEN IGNORING ARAB WORLD, THANKS TO ISRAEL'S STRATEGY OF STANDING IN THE WAY OF AMERICA'S ENLIGHTENMENT ABOUT ARABS. ONLY BY HER DEFEAT (IN 1973) DID ISRAEL INVOLUNTARILY OPEN THE DOOR OF KNOWLEDGE BEFORE AMERICAN PEOPLE." WRITER ADDED

"THAT'S WHY ARABS WANT SERIOUSLY TO END ISRAELI
OCCUPATION OF AMERICAN MIND, EVEN BEFORE ISRAELI WITH-
DRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY*".

-B) ON U.S. BICENTENNIAL 4/25 AL-RIYAD SLATED ALMOST
FULL PAGE TALKING ABOUT ILLS OF U.S. SOCIETY, SUFFERING
FROM HIGH RATES OF CRIME. " IT IS HIGH TIME FOR
PRESIDENT FORD TO AMEND LAW (SIC.) IN PROTECTION OF
INNOCENT, RATHER THAN CRIMINALS", THE ARTICLE CONTENTED.

-C) MINSITER INFORMATION DR. MUHAMMAD ABDO YAMANI
TOLD SAUDI PRESS: "FREEDOM OF PRESS GUARANTEED TO ALL."
HE URGED THEM TO KEEP AWAY FROM PROVOCATION AND
PERSONAL ATTACKS AND ABIDE BY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

-D) IT WAS REPORTED INSTALLATION OF STUDIOS AND COLOR
TV TRANSMISSION STATIONS ALREADY STARTED IN RIYADH,
JEDDAH AND DAMMAN NOW THAT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY
IMPORTED FROM FRANCE BY AIRCRAFT. HIGH RANKING SOURCE
SAID OPERATION OF PROJECT ON FRENCH SECAM SYSTEM
EXPECTED START NEXT WEEK. OTHER SOURCES SAID SYSTEM
WOULD START TRANSMISSION WITH THE BEGINNING OF NEXT
RAMADAN (SEPTEMBER 26).

-E) IN A FRONT-PAGE STORY ARAB NEWS (4/27) SAID
FRANJIEH SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN EGYPT.
PRESIDENT SADAT HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED AND WOULD PROVIDE
A HOME FOR FRANJIEH IN ALEXANDRIA.

-F) 4/27 AL-MADINA QUOTES RESPONSIBLE DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES IN CAIRO AS CONFIRMING A SAUDI-EGYPTIAN-
SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN PARLEY TAKE PLACE SHORTLY IN RIYADH
TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT. THIS
WOULD BE A DIRECT RESULT OF SAUDI MEDIATION, PAPER
SAID.
SABBAGH

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